

**SELECTBOARD AND BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
MONDAY, August 31, 2020**

Remote Zoom Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell, and Michael Nelson, Town Administrator Steven Ellis, Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz, Town Clerk Deb Bourbeau, Director of Public Health Daniel Wasiuk, Town Moderator Chris Collins, DPW Superintendent Tom Bergeron, Library Director Linda Hickman, Town Planner Walter Ramsey, and Finance Committee Chair Jen Audley.

Link to Zoom Meeting: <https://vimeo.com/453708605>

Selectboard Chair opens the meeting, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken.

Board of Health Vice-Chair opens the meeting at 6:32 PM, roll call taken.

**Approve Minutes:**

- **Joint Selectboard and Board of Health of August 10 and 17, 2020**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of both dates as presented. Seconded by Nelson, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Abstain, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Joint Selectboard, Board of Health, Finance Committee, August 24, 2020**  
Postponed until next week.

**Public Comment Period: Individuals will be limited to two (2) minutes each and the Board of Selectmen will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment**  
None

**Pole Location Hearing: Letourneau Way**

**Eversource request to install new 45' class 2 pole 110' northerly of existing Eversource pole 69/21 and 14' Easterly of road centerline. This new pole will be used to provide a new electric service for a new home built on lot 14**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Eversource request to install new 45' class 2 pole 110' northerly of existing Eversource pole 69/21 and 14' Easterly of road centerline. This new pole will be used to provide a new electric service for a new home built on lot 14. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Consider Eversource Request for Temporary Access Agreements**

- **39 Lake Pleasant Road in Montague**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to allow the Temporary Access Agreement at 39 Lake Pleasant Road as described. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Sandy Lane area**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to allow the Temporary Access Agreement for property located off of Sandy Lane in Montague, MA for Eversource improvements. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Montague Assessors' Vacancy (Karen Tonelli)**

**Request Appointment of Barbara Alconada (appointment through next Annual Town Election)**

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*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Barbara Alconada to the Assessors Board through the next Annual Town Election in May. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Discussion of Annual Town Meeting Logistics (Chris Collins, Deb Bourbeau)**

- Collins would prefer that the meeting not be held on the vacation weekend as we probably will not have a quorum. He suggests having it on Tuesday, October 13th, in the highway garage.
- Ellis reports that the building will be complete by then and we would be able to use a 100' x 100' area, which has large doors on three sides of the facility. It has radiant heat and outstanding ventilation, as well as limited-mobility access.
- The Town Clerk will be occupied with early voting on the 17th and the 24th.
- There will be about 10-12 Articles on the agenda.
- In response to a question by Nelson, Ellis states that there may be a discussion of the oversight contract for the additional area of the burn dump. It is also possible that there will be a discussion regarding the Pioneer Aviation purchase, although Ellis feels that that would be deferred.
- Singleton expressed his concern that a petitioned Article may be brought up that is divisive and would make the meeting drag on.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to open the Warrant for Articles for the next Special Town Meeting with the proposed date of Tuesday, October 13, 2020. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- Ellis reviews the Special Town Meeting Scheduling Aid.
- Collins expressed concern about appropriate lighting for a meeting environment. Ellis will confirm with the architect.

**COVID-19 Updates and Action Items**

- **Review of any Updated State Guidance or Orders**
  - Colorado, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia are now considered lower-risk states.
  - Montague cases remain at 29.
- **Montague Public Libraries - Review Plan for Reopening to Public Entry**
  - The Carnegie Library will be open by appointment on Tuesdays and Saturdays with up to four browsers and up to two computer users at one time. Masks are required and hand sanitizers must be used. Social distancing will be enforced.
  - Curbside pick-up is continued in all three buildings. Returned items are quarantined for three days.
  - *Boutwell makes the motion that the Board of Health endorse the reopening plan for Carnegie Library. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye*
  - *Boutwell makes the motion that the Selectboard endorse the reopening plan for Carnegie Library. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Personnel Board: Library Appointments**

- **Increase Scott Schmith from 27.5 to 28.5 hrs/wk**

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*Boutwell makes the motion to increase Scott Schmith from 27.5 to 28.5 hrs/wk. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Increase Colleen Rauch from 26 to 26.5 hrs/wk**

- **Increase Jill Waitrous from 13 to 13.5/hrs/wk**

*Boutwell makes the motion to increase the hours of Colleen Rauch and Jill Waitrous by half an hour per week each. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Make Judith Ketchum permanent employee scheduled for 7 hrs/wk**

*Boutwell makes the motion to make Judith Ketchum a permanent part-time employee scheduled for 7 hrs/wk. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Accept \$30,000 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Direct Grant for a project entitled "Town-wide Preservation Assessment"**

- **Execute Grant Agreement with the MA Board of Library Commissioners**

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign and execute the Grant Agreement with the MA Board of Library Commissioners. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Execute MA Standard Contract Form**

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign and execute the MA Standard Contract Form. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Police Advisory Group Appointments**

- **Move to set voting membership of ad hoc police advisory groups at eight members per group, inclusive of one voting Selectboard member per group**
- **Consider and make any appointments as recommended by the Chair**

<b>Equity of Use of Force</b>	<b>Community Engagement</b>
David Bulley	Denise Aiken
Arial Elan	Joanna Mae Boody
Faith English	Kathy Burek
Elliot Ezcurra	Natan Cohen
Deborah Ruth Frenkel	Thomasina Hall
Richard Hall	Kwamane Harris
Maddox Sprengel	Chris Pinardi
Rich Kuklewicz (SB)	Michael Nelson (SB)

Boutwell informed the board that he received correspondence over the weekend that one group has 2 long term residents on it and they felt that it should be split with one resident on each committee.

Kuklewicz states that this committee will follow the open meeting law.

Ellis reiterates the groups focus and guidance given from the June 29<sup>th</sup> Selectboards meeting

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*Nelson makes the motion to endorse the slate of candidates as proposed by the Chair in consultation with the Advisory Group to put together the two police review committees in regards to equity of use of force and community engagement as has been presented. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell – Abstain*  
Boutwell won't second the motion as he feels it wasn't done right.

- **Discuss Advisory Group Start-up and Next Steps**

- Discussion is postponed until next week.
- The individuals appointed will be officially notified and will be sworn in next week.

**Millers Falls Road Bank Erosion Progress Report (Tom Bergeron)**

- **Interim Plans to Mitigate Problem**

- We have lost another five feet of banking because of the heavy rains. The catch basin is now exposed on one side.
- EJP and Allstate is ready to provide rocks to fill the crater in.
- A road needs to be put in so trucks can come in off of Millers Falls Road without backing in or backing out, and quite a bit of tree work needs to be done.
- Allstate will furnish whatever we need for trucks next week.
- Once things are stabilized, the pipe that is jutting out will be removed and replaced by a Schedule 80 plastic pipe, which will then be buried in a loam-like substance and grass seed or straw.
- Ellis clarifies that implementing the interim plans to stabilize the situation that Bergeron described would be considered Phase 1. Phase 2 would involve engineering and procuring additional construction to ensure a good long-term solution.
- Other Chapter 90 projects planned for this year are suspended in order to have the funds to cover this project.
- Ramsey shares that we have received an emergency certificate under the Wetlands Riverfront Protection Act to be able to do this work. He has also cleared it with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.
- An Emergency Procurement waiver was filed with the Division of Capital Assets Maintenance and Management.
- We are working with FirstLight, who expressed comfort with Bergeron's plans. A memo is going to be put together which will allow us to access and operate this intervention on their land; it will also contain an indemnification clause that absolves FirstLight of any claims by the Town relative to this. FirstLight also would like assurances that the Town will provide an engineered solution and will maintain responsibility for monitoring and maintenance of the new construction.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign a letter to FirstLight in consultation with Steve Ellis and Town Counsel. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- Kuklewicz expresses concern regarding the safety of the crew.
- Bergeron states because we are working on Eversource's property, we have to maintain a high standard of safety and have a safety meeting prior to working on their properties.
- Ramsey states that some other projects that are using Chapter 90 funds will be impacted and will need to be revisited.
- Kuklewicz suggests Ramsey put together a list of projects that may be impacted so that the Finance Committee can review other potential sources of funding.

- **Consider engineering agreement with Stantec Inc., Inc**

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Postponed

**Town Administrator's Report**

- **Update on FY21 Budget Planning**

Ellis gives an overview of the proposed FY21 budget for the Special Town Meeting in the fall.

- We were in the mode of "hoarding Free Cash" in case we learned over the summer that the State was going to "rip away" FY21 funding. We have learned that the Unrestricted General Government Aid will be level-funded from FY20.
- There are a number of Articles that we anticipate having to fund.
- We are putting off some of the originally intended FY21 Capital Projects slate, three of which the school district have chosen to delay until the Winter Special Town Meeting.
- We are expecting that the Chestnut Hill Loop Bridge project will be more expensive than we originally thought. This will be addressed at the Winter Special Town Meeting.
- We are anticipating that we may need to prune about \$180,000 from the FY21 budget due to potential losses.

- **Request to move \$1,000 from CD Discretionary Unallocated (225-5-184-5200) to CD Shea Theater Maintenance (225-5-184-5240) account**

*Boutwell makes the motion to move \$1,000 from the CD Discretionary Unallocated (225-5-184-5200) to the CD Shea Theater Maintenance (225-5-184-5240) account. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **General Pierce Bridge Update**

- The contract has been awarded to Northern Construction.
- We anticipate receiving outreach from Mass DOT to discuss protocols that need to be put in place.
- The project will begin with improvements across the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge at the intersection near the Mobile station.
- The General Pierce Bridge will be closed to traffic later this calendar year while some more advanced work is done.
- There appears to be some space left in the budget that might allow for some lighting or other improvements.

- **Notice of sewer rate hearing**

The WPCF Superintendent intends to prepare a sewer rate proposal for the Board for consideration at next Tuesday's meeting.

- **Topics not anticipated in 48 hour posting/Election Reminder**

Ellis reminds everybody that tomorrow is the State Primary. Voting is open at the Council on Aging, the Montague Fire Station, and the Franklin County Technical School.

*Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the Board of Health Meeting at 8:54 PM. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye*

*Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the Selectboard Meeting at 8:54 PM.. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz*

**Documents and Exhibits:**

- Minutes: Joint Selectboard and Board of Health, August 17, 2020
- Minutes: Joint Selectboard, Board of Health, Finance Committee, August 24, 2020

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- Eversource Request for Temporary Access Agreements: 39 Lake Pleasant Road, Sandy Lane area
- Appointment of Barbara Alconada (appointment through next Annual Town Election)
- Montague Public Libraries – Review Plan for Reopening to Public Entry
- Library Appointments:
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  - Increase Colleen Rauch' from 26 to 26.5 hrs/wk
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  - Make Judith Kethcum permanent employee scheduled for 7 hrs/wk
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- Grant Agreement with the MA Board of Library Commissioners MA Standard Contract Form
- Police Advisory Group Appointments
 

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- Update on FY21 Budget Planning
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